



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Director

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NEWS RELEASE

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RE: DNA DATABANK COLD HITS

THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE'S INVESTMENT IN CREATING A DNA DATABANK AT THE KBI IS STARTING TO PAY DIVIDENDS. THE KBI WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THREE MATCHES THIS WEEK THAT CONNECTED SAMPLES TAKEN FROM CONVICTED CRIMINALS TO UNSOLVED CASES.

LAST YEAR THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE EXPANDED THE DNA DATABANK LAW TO ALL VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS AND AGAIN EXPANDED IT AS OF MAY 23RD, 2002 TO REQUIRE COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES FROM ALL CONVICTED FELONS AND SELECTED MISDEMEANANTS. THE SAMPLES ARE ANALYZED AND PLACED INTO A COMPUTERIZED DATA BASE WHICH THEN COMPARES THE SAMPLES TO THOSE SAMPLES SUBMITTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN UNSOLVED CASES. THE KBI DATABANK IS CONNECTED TO OTHER STATE DATABANKS THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

"THE USE OF DNA TO FIND THE GUILTY AND PROTECT THE INNOCENT IS PROBABLY THE GREATEST INNOVATION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE THIS CENTURY" SAID KBI DIRECTOR LARRY WELCH. "THE ENTIRE KANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY, SHERIFFS, CHIEFS, PROSECUTORS AND STREET COPS, ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL THAT THE LEGISLATURE'S SUPPORT IS NOW PROVIDING CONCRETE RESULTS. CRIMES ARE BEING SOLVED AND PREDATORS WILL BE TAKEN AND KEPT OFF THE STREETS. THAT'S WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT."

THE KBI CAN NOT PROVIDE NAMES OR OTHER IDENTIFIERS OF THE SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED TO AVOID UNDUE PRETRIAL PUBLICITY AND ENSURE FAIR TRIALS. HOWEVER ALL THREE CASES INVOLVED CONNECTING A KANSAS OFFENDER TO A RAPE CASE; ONE RAPE IN EASTERN KANSAS, ONE INVOLVING THE RAPE OF A CHILD IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AND ONE RAPE OCCURRING IN OHIO.

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